Three Essential Questions and Concepts for Teaching

1. Over time, how have societies viewed their physical environment?

* Have students investigate how societies have used the environment to establish boundaries such as rivers or mountains. Can incorporate maps with topographical symbols.
* Students can think, pair, share about how societies have viewed their environment as either positive or negative. Deserts as food scarce areas, rivers to build dam, coastlines for shipping.
* Students can learn about societies view of their environment as something that cannot be despoiled. Trash at sea, pollution, growth of environmental movements to preserve nature.

1. How have some cultures imposed their values, beliefs, ideas, and institutions?

* Analyze original sources that address Christianity and Islamic cultures and how they imposed rules and laws on non-believers living among them.
* How beliefs spread; 10% rule, propaganda, warfare, migration
* Standards of living, pop culture, media.

1. How have competing interests within a society viewed resource allocation?

* Discussion on socialism, capitalism, communism and how government involvement affects resources allocated to business and the people.
* Cottage industries, industrialization, and evolution of working class, child labor, and social programs.
* Special interest groups, big business, Supreme Court ruling on rights of companies, and campaign contributions. Political favors.